

APPLICANT(S): SMOLYAR, LEV et al.
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REMARKS

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-28 and 30 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, and 30 have been amended.

Voluntary Amendments

Independent claims 1, 14, and 30 have been voluntarily amended to further clarify the claimed subject matter of the invention. Specifically, Applicants have voluntarily amended the independent claims to explicitly recite a rake receiver. Applicants respectfully assert that these voluntary amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims and are not being made for reasons of patentability. In addition, no new matter has been added.

The Telephone Interview

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Eva, Y. Zheng for the courtesy of the telephonic interview on July 24, 2006 with Applicants' representatives. Applicants requested that the Examiner clarify her interpretation of the prior art reference Reitzig (US Patent 3,836,970), and point out which elements of Reitzig correspond to the language of Applicants' independent claims.

In the Interview, the Examiner stated that the individual antennas of an antenna array in Reitzig inherently read on "fingers of a finger block" recited in Applicants' independent claims 1, 14, and 30, when interpreted broadly. Applicants' representatives argued that this was not a reasonable interpretation, since it is well known in the art of wireless telecommunications that fingers refer to components of a rake receiver.

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CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-28 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as lacking antecedent basis for the term “said selected direction metric” recited in independent claims 1, 14, and 30. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the remarks that follow.

Independent claims 1, 14, and 30 all recite generating direction metrics, selecting one of said direction metrics, and moving in the directions indicated by said selected direction metric. Thus, it is clear from the language of the claims that “said selected direction metric” refers to the one direction metric that is selected. “The failure to provide explicit antecedent basis for terms does not always render a claim indefinite.” (M.P.E.P. §2173.05(e) Lack of Antecedent Basis)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are proper under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and request that the rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 13, 14, 18, 22, 24, 28, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reitzig (US Patent 3,836,970). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 6-8, 15, 16, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reitzig. The Examiner also rejected claims 4, 10, 12, 17, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reitzig in view of La Rosa et al., (US Patent 6,078,611). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the remarks that follow.

Applicants respectfully assert that Reitzig and La Rosa, alone or in combination with any other prior art, do not teach or suggest at least some of the features of independent claims 1, 14, and 30 and therefore cannot anticipate or make obvious these claims, or the claims dependent thereon. For example, Reitzig does not teach at least the claimed feature of “direction metrics of each of a set of possible directions of joint movement of at least two fingers of a finger block.”

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As is well known in the art, the term "fingers" is commonly used to refer to components of a rake receiver that are used for individually processing several multipath components of a received signal. For example, as defined in the CDMA – Online" website: "RAKE Receiver Definition: A receiver technique which uses several baseband correlators to individually process several signal multipath components. Each correlator in a RAKE receiver is called a RAKE-receiver finger." (<http://www.cdmaonline.com/interactive/workshops/terms1/1035.htm>, ©1999 Dr. Ernest Simo - SPACE2000).

Furthermore, it is clear from Applicants' specification that the term "finger" is being used in the above sense in the context of the present invention. See, for example, page 2, lines 14-21: "For each of the rake "fingers", the phase and amplitude of the corresponding channel multipath component is estimated..." In addition, the term "finger block" is clearly defined in Applicants' specification, e.g., at page 15, lines 3-4 as "any group of fingers, which jointly track multiple paths."

Applicants assert that Reitzig does not describe fingers of a rake receiver, and thus certainly cannot teach the claimed feature of "direction metrics of each of a set of possible directions of joint movement of at least two fingers of a finger block." Rather, Reitzig describes an antenna array system for aircraft navigation, a different field of endeavor. Applicants also note that, in the systems of Reitzig, e.g., as described in Figure 6, the receivers 14a and 14b are separate from the antenna array 8.

After significant research, Applicants could not find any support for the Examiner's interpretation of an antenna array inherently including fingers of a finger block. However, if the Examiner maintains the position that "antenna" reads on "finger" or that "antenna array" reads on "finger block", Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner direct Applicants to support for such interpretation in the relevant art.

In view of the above discussion, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103, and allowance of the pending claims 1-28 and 30. Applicants note that none of the amendments to the claims herein are in response to the above discussed prior art rejections.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 26 and 27 on condition that they are rewritten in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

However, claims 26 and 27 depend from independent claim 14, which Applicants submit is allowable, as described above. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 26 and 27 are allowable in their present form for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to independent claim 14, and Applicants request that the objection to claims 26 and 27 be withdrawn.

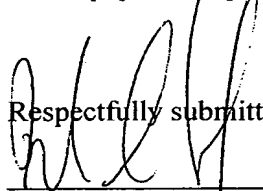
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims distinguish over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue are therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned counsel to discuss any further issues yet to be resolved in connection with this application.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,


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